

Portland, Oregon: Friday, January 14, 1881. The newspaper contains various sections including local news, advertisements, and a large illustration of a man in a suit. The masthead at the top reads 'PORTLAND, OREGON: FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 1881.' Below this, there are several columns of text, including a large article on the left side and a smaller one on the right. The bottom of the page features a large advertisement for 'THE UNFORTUNATE' and other local notices.

OVERESTIMATED POPULATION.

The population of China is usually reported at four hundred millions, or more. Many authorities have, however, described this figure, and have advanced apparently sound reasons for doubting it. No census of China has ever been taken upon methods recognized by modern statistical science, nor has any authoritative census ever been published by the Chinese government. The common estimate rests upon various historical reports, some of which are said to be more than a century of age. A writer in the International Review for January, discussing the question, reaches the conclusion that the estimates are too great by four fold, and gives his reasons. He affirms that not a newspaper or statistician or writer on the Chinese empire of any repute or judgment has reported the figures which represent the population at four hundred millions or more at other than a remote, to be placed with that period of 500,000 years which is said to have preceded the opening of Chinese history, and with the fabulous and impossible millions attributed to the number of Dan and Xerxes, and indeed to all oriental hosts. The want of the Arabic decimal system is spoken of as causing a just skepticism on all enumerations which pass into millions; the symbolism by which they are to be represented and calculated is precarious and complex; and beyond the ordinary conception of the magnitude of the great estimates of population does not rest on the possibility of establishing definite in doubt with large figures. It takes a more definite and probable form. Statisticians take account of certain principles concerning population and the factors incident to its support. Belgium, with 436 persons to the square mile, brings fifteen millions of her land into cultivation. New Jersey, with only 108 persons to the square mile, brings half her soil into improved lands and one-third into actual tillage. Yet experienced travelers and careful observers find in districts in China, which are represented as containing from 700 to 900 persons to the square mile, fully two-thirds of the lands uncultivated. "Shantung," reported as a fertile province, only two-fifths of which is cultivated, is set down in the tables of Chinese population for a total which gives 510 persons to the square mile. But England and Wales, of which the statistics are well established, though aided in their labor by a machine power equal to the manual labor of the population of the entire globe, and including the metropolis of the world, amount to the square mile only 380 persons; while France, cultivating nearly three per cent of all her land, attains only to 180 per square mile. In China population alone, the rivers are done; but travelers through the vast regions of hill country, away from the rivers, describe them as desolate, and the population of roads, or of hill lands, as thin. Owing to an utter lack of transportation, no so-called cities, capitals or towns are kept; no population is possible only along the rivers, and even there it presents no greater appearance of compactness than in Europe or America, save as a large population lives in boats. It is asserted, therefore, that the Chinese empire might triple its present population before its desolate acres would come into fullness of cultivation and the Chinese people be able to support it.

NATIONAL DEBTS.

In one of the volumes of reports on our foreign relations recently issued by the department of state, there is an exhibit of the debts of the most important European powers, as shown by latest obtainable data. It appears from this statement that Great Britain and the Netherlands are the only countries of Europe that have reduced their debts since 1865. The reduction in Great Britain has been \$145,990,000, and in the Netherlands, \$28,800,000; while in the seven most important countries of Europe the aggregate of their debts has increased, \$4,800,000,000. In the same time, in the United States, the debt has been reduced \$970,490,000. These figures show a reasonable prospect for the reduction of the debt of America in the next twenty years, and out of our great exertions, and they point with almost equal probability to another consequence, which may be expressed in the alternative that the leading nations of Europe (except Great Britain) will be forced to replenish their expenditures or be driven to repudiation in the near future. The burden of Europe's debt is the support of the immense armies with which the several nations are maintaining each other. This policy not only wastes a prodigious and constantly growing burden on all property, but it takes from peaceful industry the best part of the productive labor of all Europe. In time of peace the best exertions of the people only result in obtaining of bare subsistence, with no chance of accumulation, while in the event of a war or a failure of crops the mortgage which is crushing them grows heavier. Here one-third (nearly) of the debt has been paid, and taxes have grown lighter and lighter until to raise the annual amount required is not felt by the people. More, there is no perceptible increase in the population of the old world countries; the United States has increased in people fifty per cent. in fifteen years, and more than that amount in property values; further, the resources of Europe are all utilized, there are still whole empires in extent of virgin country as yet unexplored—almost unexplored—in the United States. Under the circumstances it is not strange, perhaps, that the credit of our country is excellent, and that the eyes of all the poor of the earth are turned this way.

ONE PAPER AND READERS.

Not long since Mr. Robert Collier delivered a pulpit discourse on the newspaper. His treatment of the subject was not remarkable for originality or depth, but was chiefly a glowing panegyric on the newspaper as a great moral engine, doing its work with tremendous energy in an ignorant and wicked world. He had something to say, too, on the responsibility of newspapers; but his discourse had nothing on the responsibility of readers. On this branch of the subject a few prompts would not have been amiss. It need not be denied that on the part of every newspaper which addresses the general public there is a temptation, and often a strong one, to "talk down" to what seems the desire of newspaper readers. That is to say, there is constant demand on the newspaper for that which a correct moral judgment on the part of the publisher can not approve. But the newspaper is subject to no

man conditions. It is not wholly a missionary enterprise, nor a pursuit of martyrdom. The editor can not afford to make up a paper solely for his own reading, or to be read in heaven, and he is subject to the influence of the common observation that the mass of readers have not the habit of thought or of moral application to read of these things. It is the real benefit of the mind, or that of a large number, personal, social, people of the consequence, or some consequence, people, little, little, little, and public, constitute the idea of a newspaper; and that, in particular, some scandal which violates domestic privacy and public decency at the same time, and has no right to be a newspaper at all, is by far the most attractive and welcome thing that can be worked up and presented. There is a foundation, which the high-minded newspaper always maintains. But public morality once small, and the public morality of the large class of readers who want the kind of thing, and are most eager to pay for it. Not a few readers of papers, which do trespass in this way as it is a shame, and satisfy their consciences by a virtuous course of the publishers while they glow over the scandal in the public eye. If, however, any one next to them is injured, and not only can tell where the wrong is, but can support such papers as at once in an arm against them, and wonder why society does not find a way to rid itself of the wretches who indulge in such publications. The point of all is that there is a responsibility on the part of the reader as well as the publisher. A virtuous public taste tends to drive the vulgar journal. This is the origin of that admirable species of journalism which devotes itself largely to personal scandals, well sifted with reliable exposures so acceptable to large numbers of readers. If the readers would reform, there would be no publishers of this sort. Each class is the counterpart of the other. The journal exists to supply a vital demand, just as other vital things, unnamable here, exist under similar conditions.

Andrew Jackson Davis, who once wrote books and possibly is still writing books on the nebulous theories of transcendental spiritualism, has not been talked of lately so much as formerly, though he is still working away in those indolently expanded regions close bordering the limbo of the spirit. A correspondent of the Cincinnati Enquirer recently heard him in New York and got him sufficiently interested to obtain a sketch of him. It turns out that Davis is a regular minister of a New York congregation calling itself the "charismatic association." This follows in the doctrine of spiritualism as taught by the Fox sisters and other early spiritualists, but rejects orthodox Christianity as taught by the latter. Davis is a regular minister of a New York congregation calling itself the "charismatic association." This follows in the doctrine of spiritualism as taught by the Fox sisters and other early spiritualists, but rejects orthodox Christianity as taught by the latter. Davis is a regular minister of a New York congregation calling itself the "charismatic association." This follows in the doctrine of spiritualism as taught by the Fox sisters and other early spiritualists, but rejects orthodox Christianity as taught by the latter.

Some kind influence, like a happy dream, must have stolen over the spirit of the Astorian newspaper of San Francisco. Heretofore it has omitted no opportunity, and has made many a bold thing about the Columbia river. But now it notices with approval the memorials forwarded to congress by the boards of trade of Portland and Astoria, requesting legislation for improvement of the navigation of the great river and the bar at its mouth and asking congress to be ordered the expenditure of millions of dollars for error and harbor improvements not having a tenth part the claim to such appropriation as have that great river and the entrance to it. Oregon is certain to be a great grain producing and exporting state in the close future, and her river is worthy of all the appropriations which can be obtained for improving it as a highway of trade.

THE MESSAGE OF MAYOR IRVING.

The message of Mayor Irving of Astoria, just published in the Astorian, is an excellent document, having the rare merit of dealing with figures and facts rather than idealities. It contains one item of no small importance. The question of the Columbia river, James Carroll, making regular monthly trips to the traffic in increasing largely. Our trade with San Francisco is by far the most important, and besides maintaining two first class steamship lines equipped with the finest and fastest steamers, Astoria, the State of California, the Oregon and the Columbia making regular trips every five days, has a first class, line of packing making regular trips. We are truly glad to hear from brother Irving that report of Astoria's great prosperity.

Col. Blanton Duncan of Kentucky.

Col. Blanton Duncan of Kentucky, is prosecuting a suit against Thomas E. Sharp, who he says is in charge of his plantation in 1864 when he thought it to go south to look for his fortune in the southern confederacy. Sharp, who was once a member of the plantation for \$6000, which amount he has never paid over. His refusal is based on the ground that all slaves had been freed by President Lincoln's proclamation, which took effect January 1st, 1863, and that therefore Col. Duncan had no property right in them. This is good enough, but still Mr. Sharp has no business with the money. As it cost the United States something to free the slaves, it would be the dearest thing on the part of Mr. Sharp to turn the \$6000 into the national treasury.

COMMUNION ADDRESS BY CHARLES FRANKLIN ADAMS.

Communion address by Charles Franklin Adams and others at Quincy, Mass., last night, in celebration of the landing of the Mayflower, the New York World says: "It is a pity that the creator should have lost so excellent an occasion of dwelling upon the interesting fact that if the Mayflower were still in existence all the wealth and all the piety of New England put together could not secure an American register for her or put her under the flag of the United States."

IT IS A SIGN OF A HEALTHY AND MUCH NEEDED IMPROVEMENT IN SOUTHERN PUBLIC OPINION.

A state legislature passes a bill to make dueling a crime. Such action has been taken by the Palmetto state legislature, defining the offense, and accepting a challenge cause for dueling, and the killing of a man in a duel as murder in the first degree. It is to be hoped that the law will be vigorously executed, and the good example followed by other legislatures in the south.

THE RECENT DISGRACEFUL "HIT" IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The recent disgraceful "hit" in the house of representatives was not the first of its kind. In 1842, Dawson, of Louisiana, drew a bow-knife upon John R. Giddings on the floor of the house. Black, of Georgia, threatened to bludgeon him, and afterward, Dawson cooked a pistol to shoot Giddings. At another time, Wright of Tennessee, attempted to strike John Sherman, of Ohio, and the latter threw a handful of water at his assailant.

ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING FACTS BROUGHT OUT BY THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RECORDS OF THE WAR.

One of the most interesting facts brought out by the official publication of the records of the war is that the masses of the south were not

NEW TO-DAY.

JOHN CRAN & CO.

STOCK-TAKING SALE.

We will offer for sale FOR A FEW DAYS, GREAT Bargains.

REMNANTS.

ODDS AND ENDS.

Stock in All Departments.

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AMUSEMENTS.

NEW MARKET THEATER.

BENEFIT.

Firemen's Mutual Aid Society.

Saturday Evening, Jan. 15.

AT 8 O'CLOCK.

On which occasion there will be a Lecture by

THOMAS B. FERRY.

ENTITLED

The Life and Times of David C. Broderick.

SEVEN PASSES, 50 CENTS.

Reserved seats can be secured without extra charge.

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THE FLOOD.

SPECIAL BRIDGE CARRIED AWAY

The Williams bridge, which carries the main line of the Oregonian, was carried away by the flood. The bridge was carried away by the flood. The bridge was carried away by the flood.

DEATH OF ARMY J. HAMILTON.

Army J. Hamilton, who was killed in the war, died at his home in Portland. He was a brave soldier and a good man.

"DO NOT BOTHER ME NO MORE"

A very much distressed woman, who had been bothered by a man, wrote a letter to the editor. She said, "Do not bother me no more."

THE FLOOD.

The flood has caused a great deal of damage in Portland. The water has risen to a high level and has caused a great deal of damage to the city.

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